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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 26, 1987 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 21 totaled an estimated 17.5 billion ton-miles, 1.1 percent above the corresponding week of 1986, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 12 weeks of 1987 was an estimated 199.5 billion ton-miles, down 1.8 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 21 totaled 394,079, up 1.8 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and 1.5 percent above the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.1 percent in the East and 1.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 12 of the 21 major commodity groups increased. Grain showed a gain of 6,118 cars (29.4 percent), while coal decreased by 8,692 cars (7.5 percent). Twelve of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

## Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 14 totaled 101,231 trailers and/or containers, 3.6 percent above last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 11 weeks of the year was 1,031,976 trailers and/or containers, up 3.1 percent from 1986.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/21/87:

| | Loadings in Week ended March 21, 1987 | | Change from Corresponding Week 1986 | | | Change from Preceding Week | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cars | | Cars | Percent | | Cars | Percent |
| Grain | 26,894 | I | 6,118 | 29.4 | D | 1,641 | 5.8 |
| Other farm products | 4,179 | I | 1,424 | 51.7 | D | 30 | 0.7 |
| Metallic ores | 15,182 | D | 400 | 2.6 | D | 171 | 1.1 |
| Coal | 107,541 | D | 8,692 | 7.5 | I | 3,470 | 3.3 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 12,351 | I | 275 | 2.3 | I | 803 | 7.0 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 10,206 | I | 786 | 8.3 | I | 1,834 | 21.9 |
| Grain mill products | 10,912 | I | 701 | 6.9 | D | 402 | 3.6 |
| Food and kindred products | 11,236 | I | 305 | 2.8 | I | 146 | 1.3 |
| Primary forest products | 10,609 | D | 48 | 0.5 | D | 214 | 2.0 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 8,158 | D | 325 | 3.8 | D | 314 | 3.7 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 12,609 | D | 724 | 5.4 | D | 216 | 1.7 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 28,304 | I | 2,248 | 8.6 | I | 1,421 | 5.3 |
| Petroleum products | 4,952 | I | 459 | 10.2 | I | 379 | 8.3 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 10,031 | I | 526 | 5.5 | I | 314 | 3.2 |
| Coke | 4,617 | I | 67 | 1.5 | I | 168 | 3.8 |
| Metals and products | 8,357 | D | 314 | 3.6 | I | 87 | 1.1 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 21,919 | D | 538 | 2.4 | I | 169 | 0.8 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 9,015 | I | 525 | 6.2 | I | 194 | 2.2 |
| Forwarder and shipper association traffic | 2,767 | D | 2,846 | 50.7 | D | 72 | 2.5 |
| All other carloads | 74,119 | I | 7,575 | 11.4 | D | 22 | 0.0 |
| LCL traffic | 121 | D | 21 | 14.8 | I | 12 | 11.0 |
| Total Cars Loaded | 394,079 | I | 7,101 | 1.8 | I | 5,915 | 1.5 |
| Corresponding week of 1986 | 386,978 | | | | | | |

| | 1987 | 1986 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Cars Loaded (12 weeks) | 4,444,326 | 4,491,183 | D 1.0 |
| Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions): | | | |
| 11 Weeks ended March 14 | 182.0 | 185.8 | D 2.1 |
| Week ended March 21 | 17.5 | 17.3 | I 1.1 |
| 12 Weeks cumulative | 199.5 | 203.1 | D 1.8 |

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